

Security Message

Date: 24 October 2012

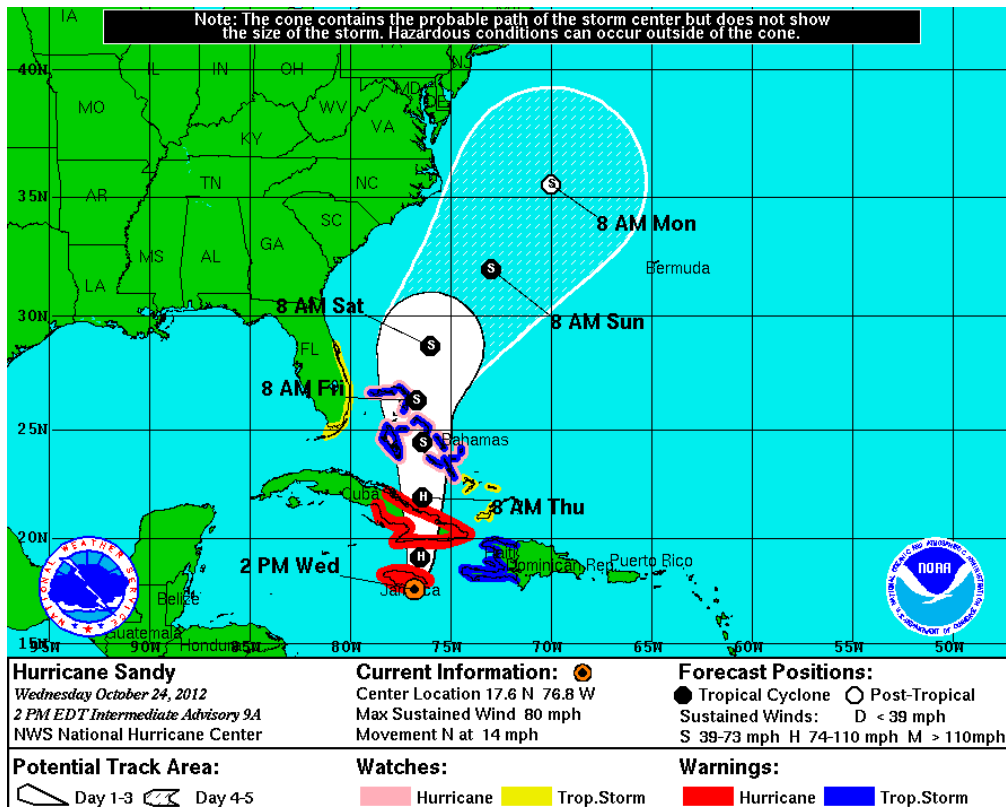
Subject: Tropical Storm Sandy

The U.S. Interests Section in Havana is issuing this Security Message to alert U.S citizens residing in or traveling to Cuba to the approach of Hurricane Sandy. The storm is expected to make landfall in Cuba on October 24.

Current tracking maps and weather forecasts indicate that the center of Hurricane Sandy will approach the south east coast of Cuba Wednesday night. Maximum sustained winds have increased to near 80 mph (129 km/hr) with higher gusts. The government of Cuba has issued a hurricane warning for the provinces of Santiago de Cuba, Guantanamo, Granma, Las Tunas, Holguin, Camaguey and Villa Clara.

Sandy is expected to produce heavy rain fall from Las Tunas to Guantanamo as well as coastal floods in the southern coast of Granma and Guantanamo and the northern coast of Camaguey and Villa Clara. For up-to-date information on the storm's track, please monitor local television and radio news channels. If you have access to Internet, we also recommend accessing the National Hurricane Center's website at <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>. The Cuban Meteorological Institute provides Cuban specific weather information at <http://www.insmet.cu>.

The U.S. Interests Section will continue to monitor this storm and will issue updated messages. U.S. citizens are urged to monitor media reports, take necessary precautions and follow all official instructions. U.S. citizens should carry their travel documents at all times (e.g. U.S. passport, birth certificate, picture ID's, etc.) or secure them in a safe and waterproof location. We also suggest that you contact friends and family in the United States with updates about your whereabouts.



The U.S. Interests Section recommends that all United States citizens in Cuba register with the Section's American Citizens Services Unit. Travelers can register their visit in person or on-line by visiting the U.S. Interests Section's website at <http://havana.usinterestsection.gov/>. The U.S. Interests Section is located in Havana at Calzada between L and M Streets, Vedado; telephone (537) 833-3551 through 833-3559. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. In case of an after hours emergency the duty officer can be reached at (53)-5-280-5791.

Additional information on hurricanes and storm preparedness may be found in the "Hurricane Season-Know Before You Go" pamphlet at: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis_pa_tw_2915.html, and on the "Natural Disasters" page of the Bureau of Consular Affairs' website at: http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/emergencies/emergencies_1207.html. Updated information on travel in Cuba may be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States and Canada, or from overseas, 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 am to 8:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

Please continue to monitor local media and the U.S. Interests Section's website for updated information on this and other issues at, <http://havana.usinterestsection.gov>. For further information please consult the Country Specific Information Sheet for Cuba, available via the Internet at <http://travel.state.gov>.

For any emergencies involving U.S. citizens, please contact the American Citizens Services (ACS) Unit of the U.S. Interests Section, Consular Section.